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**KEY TO
SOME COMMON
FOREST-ZONE
PLANTS OF
NORTHWESTERN
WASHINGTON**

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**Forest Service · USDA
Pacific Northwest Region**

R6-ECOL-006



KEY TO SOME

COMMON FOREST ZONE PLANTS OF NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON

R6-Ecol-006

February, 1974

Frederick C. Hall

Only two steps are required to use this key:

1. Compare the plant to diagrams below to decide if it is a coniferous tree, hardwood tree, tall shrub, low shrub (less than 5 feet tall) or woody plant, a forb or broad leaved plant, or a grass or grasslike plant including sedges.
2. Look in the appropriate section for a picture that resembles your unknown plant.

This key contains 115 of the most common plants found in the forest zone and sub-alpine forest in Northwestern Washington State, including the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Olympic National Forests. The careful observer will often find plants that cannot be identified with this key. He is referred to the authority publication from which this key was abstracted: Hitchcock et.al., VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Univ. Wash. Press.

Notes about each species are arranged as follows: Special identifying characteristics are listed adjacent to the diagram. "SITE" items pertain to timber productivity, tree regeneration problems, soil moisture or temperature, disturbance, or other important or unique environmental indications. "ANIMALS" pertains to the plants palatability or poisonous plant for cultivation in gardens west of the Cascade crest. "OTHER" is a catchall for other information particularly edibility of the fruit or plant by people or other interesting information.

Primary references for each item are: SITE - Franklin, Jerry F. and C.T. Dyrness. 1973. NATURAL VEGETATION OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON. USDA, Forest Service. General Technical Report PNW-8. ANIMALS - Brown, E.R. 1961. THE BLACKTAIL DEER OF WESTERN WASHINGTON. Wash. State Game Dept., Biological Bull. No. 13. Gilkey, Helen M. 1958. LIVESTOCK POISONING WEEDS OF OREGON. O.S.U. Agri. Exper. Stat., Station Bull. 564. GARDEN - notes from the authority publication. OTHER - Kirk, Donald. 1970. WILD EDIBLE PLANTS OF THE WESTERN STATES. Naturegraph Pub., Healdsburg, California. Hardin, J.W. and J.M. Arena, M.D. 1974. HUMAN POISONING FROM NATIVE AND CULTIVATED PLANTS. Duke. Un. Press. Durham, N.C.

CONIFEROUS TREES

HARDWOOD TREE OR TALL SHRUB

SHRUBS LESS 5 ft. TALL

FERNS AND LILLIES

FORBS AND OTHER FLOWERS

GRASSES AND SEDGES

Evergreen
tree with
needles.

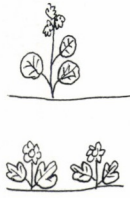
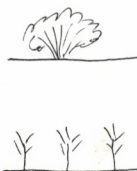
Broad leaved
tree or shrub
over 5 ft.tall
when mature.

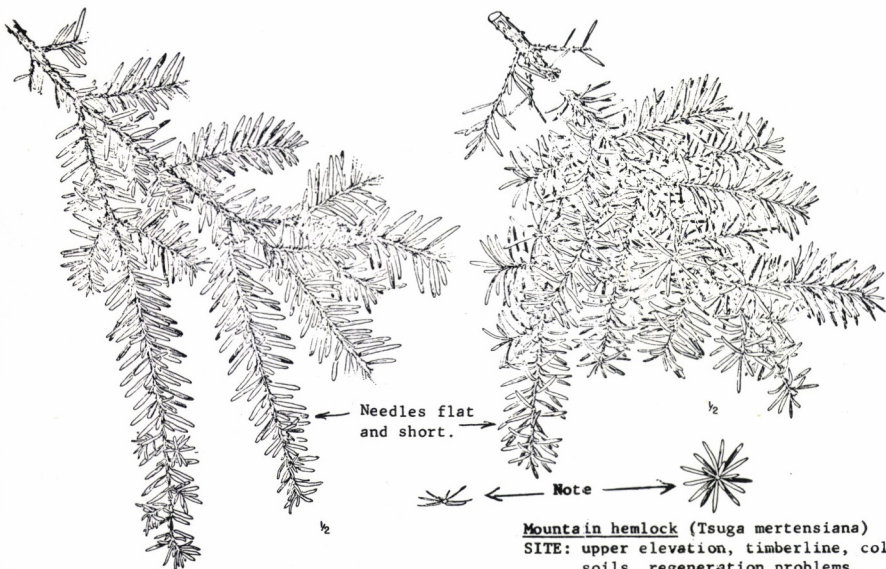
Shrub less
than 5 ft.tall
when mature,
low shrubs.

Fern or plant
with lilly-like
leaves.

Plants with
broad leaves
and often
showy flowers.

Grasses,
sedges and
other plants
with long
thin leaves.





Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

SITE: Sea level to mid elevation, good to high timber productivity, easy to moderately easy regeneration.

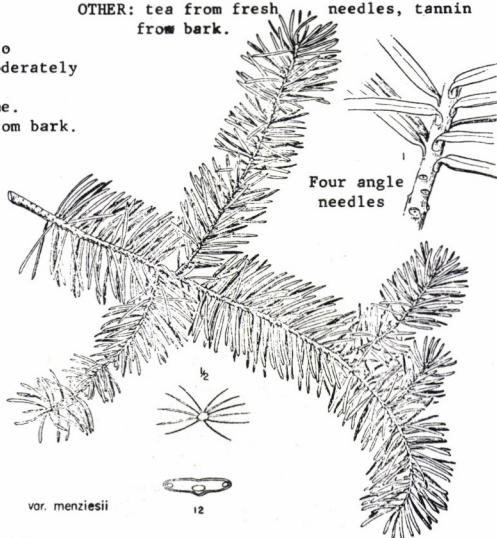
ANIMALS: moderately palatable to big game.

OTHER: tea from fresh needles, tannin from bark.

Mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*)

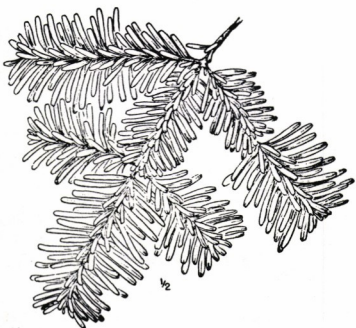
SITE: upper elevation, timberline, cold soils, regeneration problems.

OTHER: tea from fresh needles, tannin from bark.



var. *menziesii*

Pseudotsuga menziesii

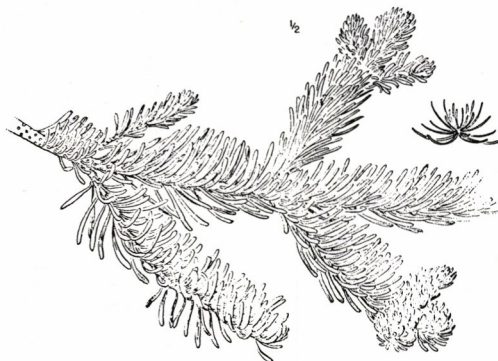


Silver fir (*Abies amabilis*)

SITE: Mid to upper elevations; regeneration problems when big huckleberry, beargrass dominate understory.

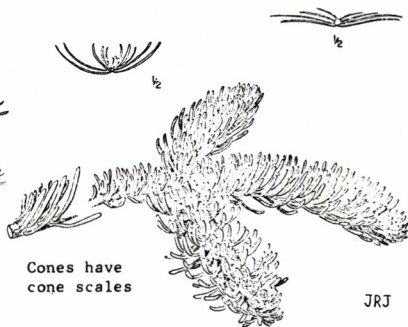


Grand fir (*Abies grandis*)
SITE: low to mid elevations.



Sub-alpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*)

SITE: upper elevations to timberline; drier sites than mountain hemlock or silver fir; regeneration problems.



Cones have
cone scales

JRJ

Noble fir (*A. procera*)

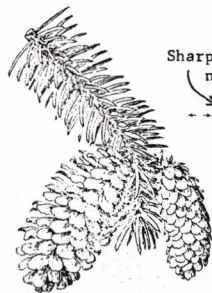
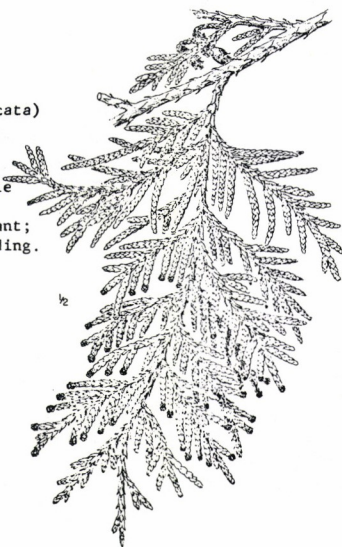
SITE: mid to upper elevations, similar distribution in elevation to silver fir.



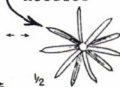
Alaska cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*)
 SITE: mid to upper elevations

Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

SITE: moist to wet sites,
 lower elevations to sea
 level, shallow rooted.
 ANIMALS: moderately palatable
 to big game.
 OTHER: wood very rot resistant;
 shingle and unpainted siding.



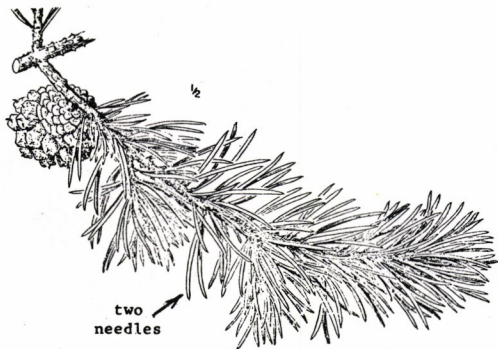
Sharp pointed
 needles



Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)

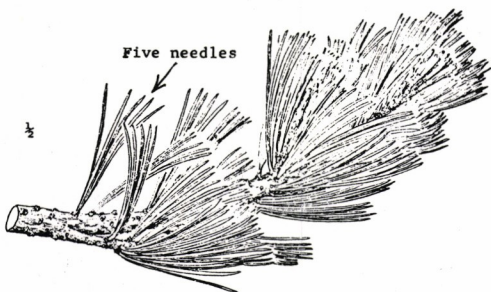
SITE: Sea level to lower elevations along the coast;
 ANIMALS: Susceptible to defoliation by red spider and
 to malformation by spruce gall.
 OTHER: Excellent wood structural qualities, once used
 in aircraft construction (still used in Bellanca!),
 now used in sailboat masts and booms.





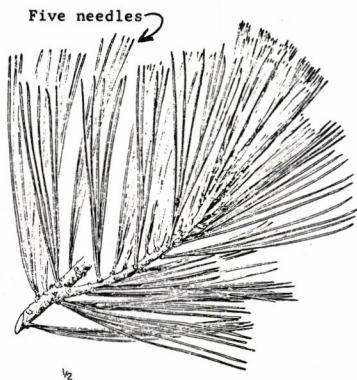
Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*)

SITE: Two disjunct locations: along the coast (shore pine) and mid to upper elevations in the mountains - pioneer species following fire; also tends to indicate serpentine geology with a very sparse plant community and special ground vegetation (the ferns rock brake and holly fern).



Whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)

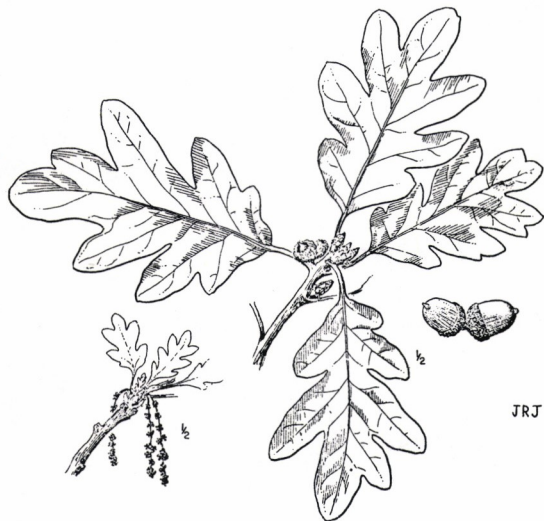
SITE: Sub-alpine, timberline, scattered above timberline as shrubs, highest tree on the mountains; non-commercial forest site.



Western white pine (*Pinus monticola*)

SITE: mid to upper elevations; pioneer species following fire or other severe disturbance; requires clearcutting type of silviculture for regeneration.

OTHER: Strongly susceptible to blister rust.



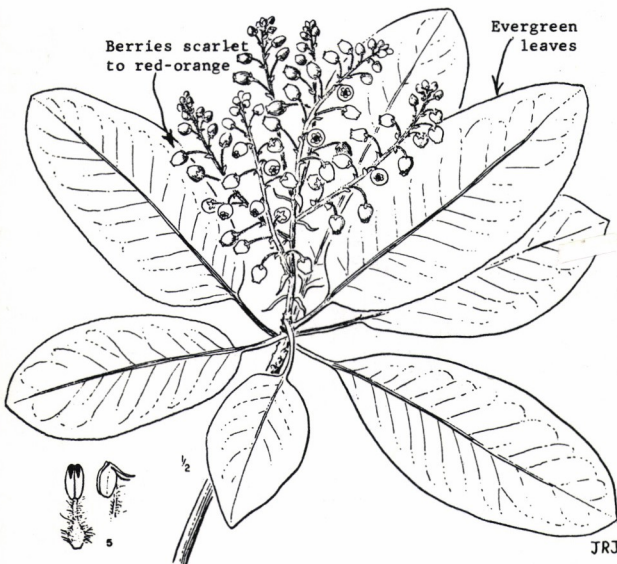
Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*)

SITE: Driest forest sites, often grass ground vegetation, Douglas-fir often found "invading" oak stands; severe regeneration problems for fir, moderate for oak (sprouts after cutting).

ANIMALS: acorns mast for big game, birds, can be eaten by people but should be boiled to remove tannic flavor.

OTHER: acorns palatable when cooked.

JRJ



Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*)

SITE: very dry sites, just slightly better than oak, often grows with oak; Douglas-fir often found "invading" madrone stands; severe regeneration problem for fir;

ANIMALS: Some palatability for big game when sprouting.

GARDEN: prime tree due to shiny evergreen leaves, bright fruit, and cinnamon colored, peeling bark.

OTHER: Fruit eaten raw, boiled, steamed, puddings, wine, can boil and dry berries for long storage.

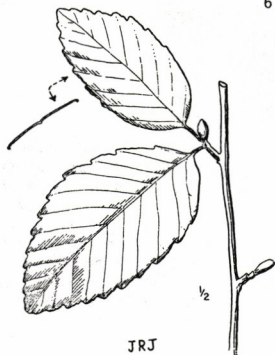
JRJ



Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

SITE: moist, deep soils, good timber sites.

OTHER: Some success in making reasonably good maple syrup from spring sap.



Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)

SITE: Fair to very good timber sites that can grow western hemlock, grand fir, often sitka spruce; increase rapidly after clearcutting, hinder conifer growth and establishment due to closed crown cover; roots fix nitrogen, leaves high in nitrogen - improves the soil; not susceptible to fir root rots.

ANIMALS: moderately palatable to big game.

OTHER: excellent firewood - burns hot and clean; choice hardwood for furniture.

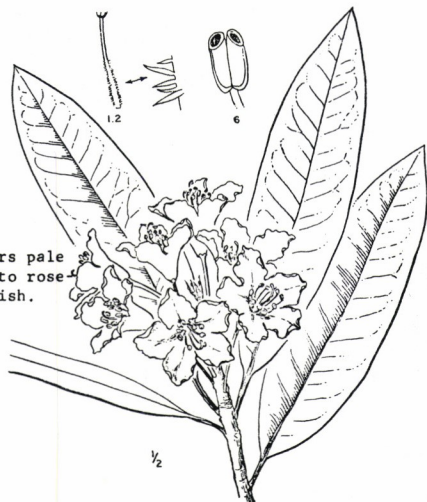


Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*)

SITE: Wet to moist sites, overflow bottomland.

Pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)

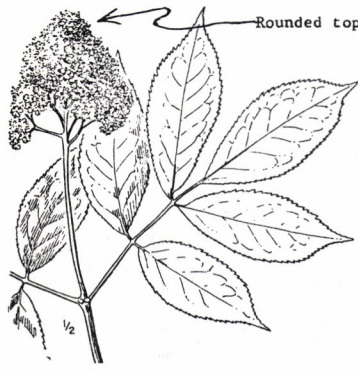
OTHER: highly desirable in the garden due to flower color variability and differences in date of flowering.



Flowers pale pink to rose purplish.

Flowers white Fruit black to purple

→ Rounded top



Rhododendron (*Rhododendron macrophyllum*)

SITE: size of shrub seems directly correlated with timber site quality - taller shrubs = better site.

ANIMALS: foliage and flowers poisonous to sheep.

GARDEN: Easily grown, horticultural stock, state flower of Washington.

OTHER: leaves and flowers poisonous to people (resinoid).

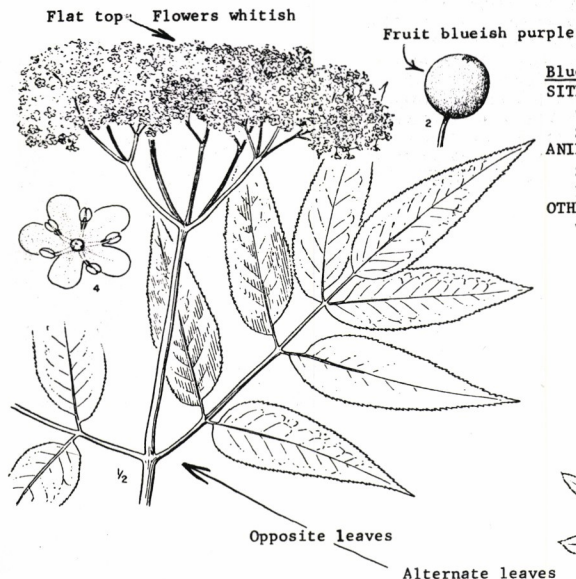
Blue elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*)

SITE: often unnoticed in uncut stands; often colonizes clearcuts on fairly good sites.

ANIMALS: Foliage highly palatable to big game; fruit highly palatable to birds.

OTHER: Fruit edible raw, cooked, as wine; course stems can be hollowed out and made into flute type instrument.

NOTE: variety *arborescens* has red, yellow, chestnut or even white berries - berries reported poisonous.



Blue elderberry (*Sambucus cerulea*)

SITE: often unnoticed in uncut forest, often colonizes clearcuts on fairly good sites.

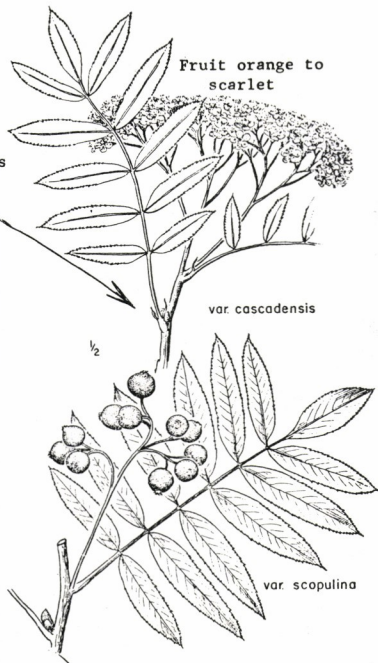
ANIMAL: Foliage highly palatable to big game and livestock; berries highly palatable to birds.

OTHER: Fruit edible raw, cooked, as wine (superior wine to *S. racemosa*).

Mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*)

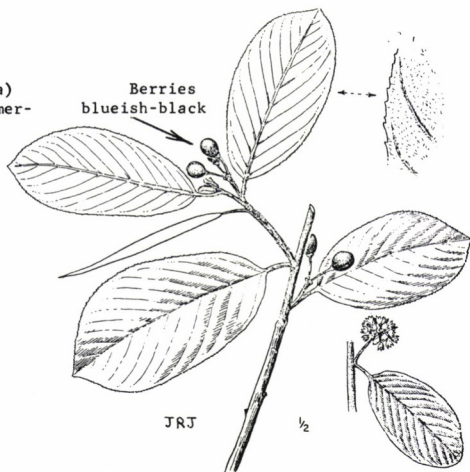
OTHER: Fruit eaten raw, cooked, made into wine.

GARDEN: Highly regarded due to the brilliantly colored fruit clusters; propagate from seed or transplants.



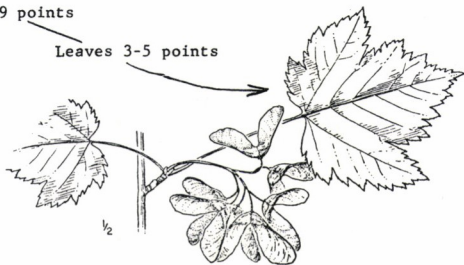
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 VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
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 © 1961, PART 3; © 1964, PART 2; © 1969, PART 1

Cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*)
 OTHER: Bark collected commercially for medicinal qualities (laxative); berries are poisonous to people.



Leaves 7-9 points

Leaves 3-5 points



Douglas-maple, red maple (*Acer glabrum*)
 SITE: widely distributed, tends to occupy slightly drier sites than *A. circinatum*.
 ANIMALS: moderately palatable to big game.

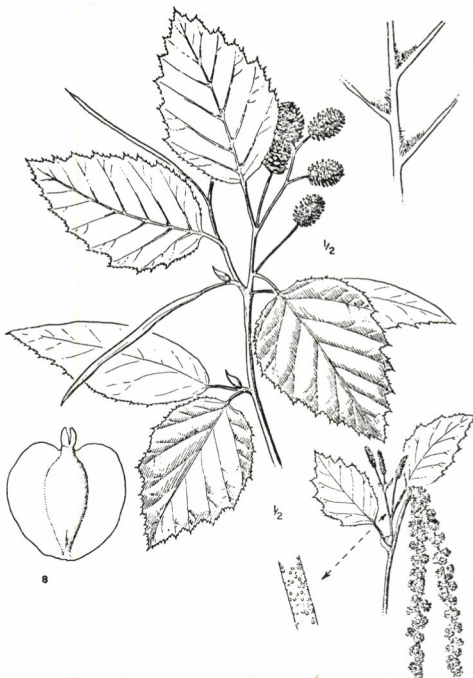
Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)
 SITE: widely distributed, little indicator value by itself; below upper elevations.
 ANIMALS: moderately palatable to big game.



Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*)

SITE: scarce in uncut forest, colonizes clearcuts; dryland willow.

ANIMAL: moderate to high palatability for big game, livestock.



Sitka alder (*Alnus sinuata*)

SITE: Usually indicates snowslide conditions, either snow creep or avalanche paths.

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

SITE: drier, poorer sites, often with some oak, madrone; low timber productivity; significant regeneration problems.

ANIMALS: moderately to highly palatable to big game and livestock.

OTHER: white, rather tasteless fruit edible raw, or cooked.



Cascade oregongrape, hollygrape

(*Berberis nervosa*)

SITE: Dry sites to somewhat moist; strongly rhizomatous - gives difficulty in competition in clearcuts with tree regeneration; control very difficult.

GARDEN: easily propagated; desirable for yellow flowers and bright blue fruit.

OTHER: Fruit pleasantly acid eaten raw, cooked, made into wine; yellow die from bark and yellow rhizomes.

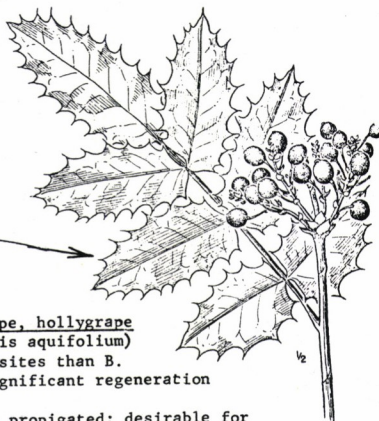


Leaflets 13-19

Leaflets 5-9

Berry blue

Flowers yellow



Tall oregongrape, hollygrape

(*Berberis aquifolium*)

SITE: Moist sites than *B. nervosa*; significant regeneration problems.

GARDEN: easily propagated; desirable for yellow flowers, blue fruit clumps.

OTHER: Fruit pleasantly acid eaten raw, cooked, used for wine; yellow die from bark and yellow rhizomes.

Flowers
white



Snowbush (Ceanothus velutinus)

SITE: seeds triggered into germination by fire; can be very aggressive competition in clearcuts.

ANIMAL: Moderate palatability to big game.

OTHER: Flowers, when crushed in water create a lather.

3 prominent leaf veins
in Ceanothus spp.

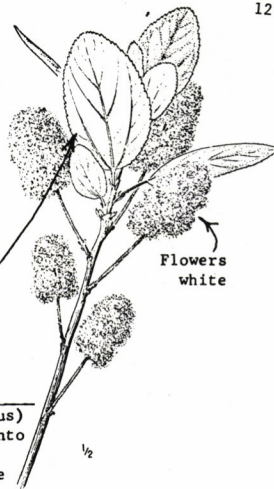
Redstem ceanothus

(Ceanothus sanguineus)

SITE: seeds triggered into germination by fire, can become aggressive competition in clearcuts.

ANIMAL: highly palatable to big game and livestock.

OTHER: leaves boiled for tea.



Flowers
white

JRJ

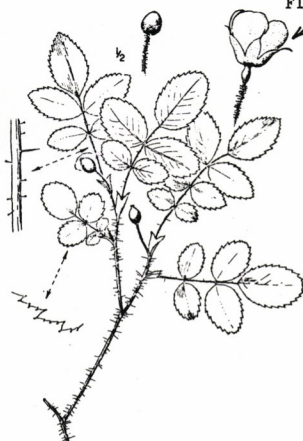
Flowers light pink to deep rose

Baldhip rose (Rosa gymnocarpa)

SITE: drier, poorer sites; low timber productivity; regeneration problems.

ANIMALS: moderately palatable to game.

OTHER: Rose hips edible fresh or dried; dried hips used for wine flavoring (sold commercially); petals eaten fresh or in salads.

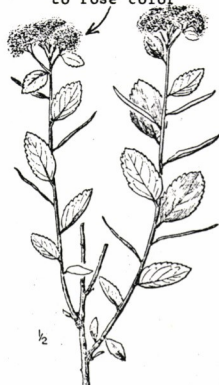


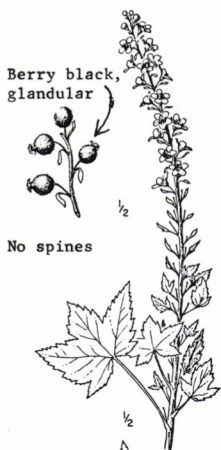
Flowers pink
to rose color

Pink spiraea (Spiraea

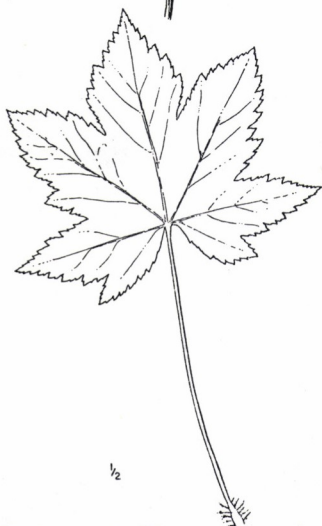
densiflora)

SITE: widely distributed;
low to high elevation.





No spines



Stink current (Ribes bracteosum)

SITE: Moist to wet seepage areas;
 swampy forest.

OTHER: Berry has a disagreeable taste.

Devil's club

(*Oplopanax horridum*)

SITE: Moist to wet, good
 forest production.

GARDEN: bright red fruit
 and hideous spines
 make plant unusual
 for the garden.

OTHER: Young stems cooked
 as green; roots peeled
 and chewed.



Cladanthamnus

(*Cladanthamnus pyrolaeiflorus*)

SITE: Moist sites.

Azalia, white rhododendron

(*Rhododendron*

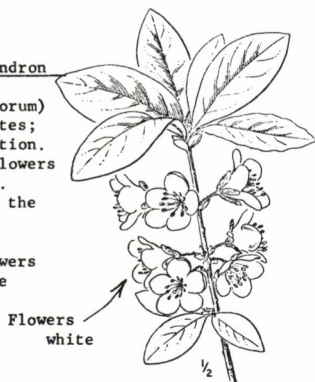
albiflorum)

SITE: Moist to wet sites;
 good forest production.

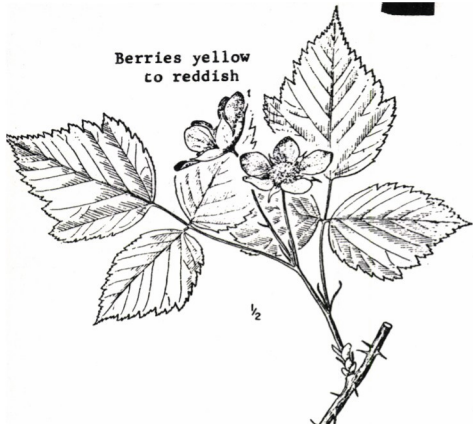
ANIMALS: leaves and flowers
 poisonous to sheep.

GARDEN: Only fair for the
 garden; cultivated
 varieties better.

OTHER: Leaves and flowers
 poisonous to people
 (resinoid).



Berries yellow
to reddish



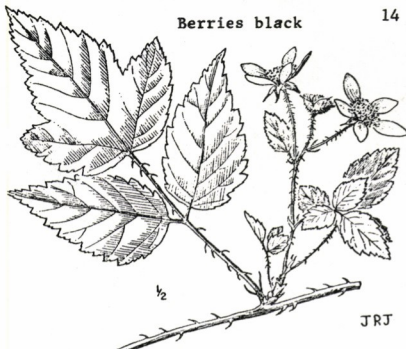
Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*)

SITE: Moist forest sites; often a strong increaser in clearcuts - locally severe regeneration problems.

ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to big game.

OTHER: Fruit yellow to reddish, little flavor, edible raw, cooked, in wine.

Berries black



JRT

Trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)

SITE: Increases with disturbance, widespread, limited indicator value.

ANIMALS: Very palatable to big game, often a key winter browse plant.

GARDEN: Undesirable in the garden due to its aggressiveness.

OTHER: Black berry has excellent flavor, edible raw, cooked, makes excellent wine; tea made from leaves; has been the original source for several horticultural varieties: mammoth berry, loganberry, youngberry.



Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*)

SITE: Size tends to indicate site quality, lower (less 18") form with Cascade oregongrape means poor to fair timber site; widely distributed so limited indicator value by itself the more dominant and the fewer kinds of species = poorer sites.

ANIMALS: Palatable to big game

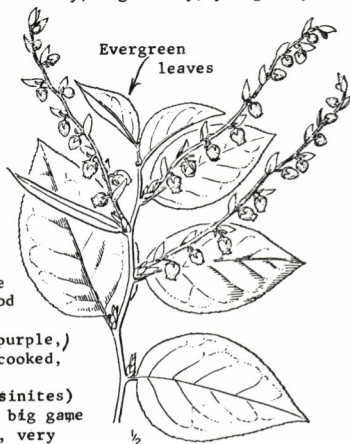
GARDEN: Easily cultivated, good for evergreen leaves.

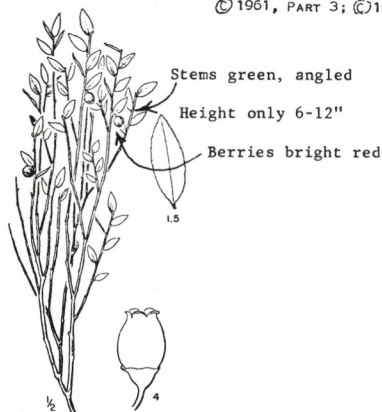
OTHER: Berries dark blue to purple, sweet, highly edible raw, cooked, excellent as wine.

Pachistima, Oregon boxwood (*Pachistima myrsinites*)

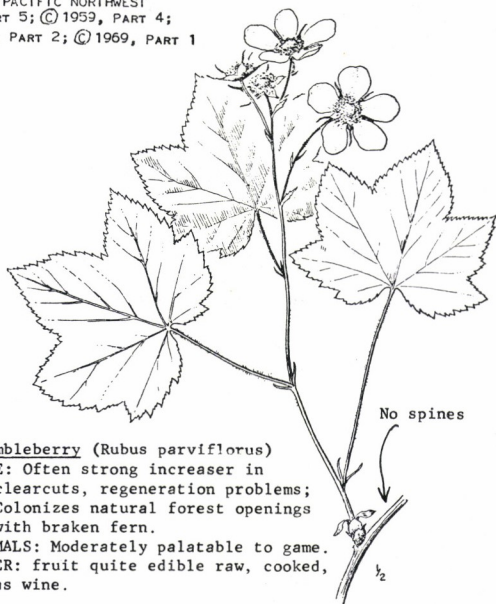
ANIMALS: Moderately to highly palatable to big game

GARDEN: Original source for boxwood hedges, very suited to pruning, shiny evergreen leaves = prime.

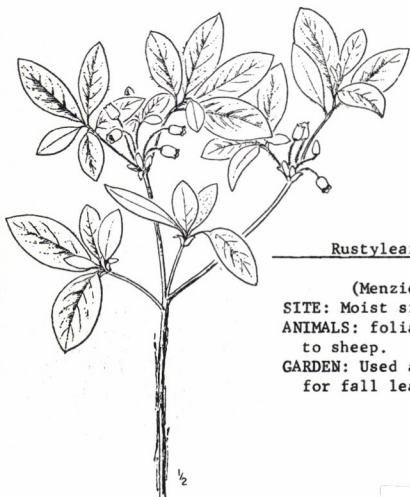




Grouse huckleberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*)
 SITE: Indicates cool to cold soil, frost heaving thus regeneration problems; fair to poor forest growth potential.
 ANIMALS: Moderate palatability to game.
 OTHER: Berries edible raw, cooked, in wine but so small they are tedious to collect.



Thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)
 SITE: Often strong increaser in clearcuts, regeneration problems; Colonizes natural forest openings with broken fern.
 ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to game.
 OTHER: fruit quite edible raw, cooked, as wine.



Rustyleaf, fools huckleberry
 (*Menziesia ferruginea*)
 SITE: Moist sites.
 ANIMALS: foliage poisonous to sheep.
 GARDEN: Used as oramental for fall leaf color.

Evergreen huckleberry
 (*Vaccinium ovatum*)

SITE: Coastal species; sandy, droughty sites; only fair to sometimes good forest growth potential.
 GARDEN: desirable for its evergreen leaves.
 OTHER: Fronds sold commercially for florist trade (plant pruned to enhance fronds); berry edible raw, cooked, in wine, but has musky taste.

Berries purplish-black





Thinleaf, big huckleberry

(*Vaccinium membranaceum*)

SITE: Mid and upper elevation,
Fairly good to poor forest
productivity.

ANIMALS: moderately palatable
to big game, sheep.

OTHER: berries excellent raw,
cooked, as wine; sold
commercially; primary berry
on widely know filds such
as Twin Buttes on the G.P.

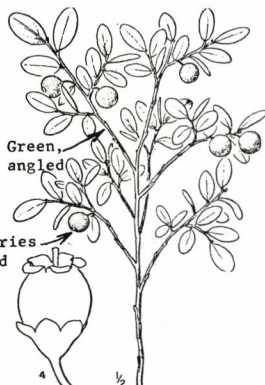
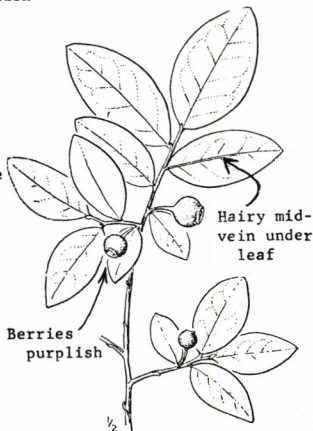


Blueleaf huckleberry

(*Vaccinium deliciosum*)

SITE: Upper elevations, sub-alpine
openings; cold to very cold
soil; severe regeneration
problems.

OTHER: Berries reputed as best,
edible raw, cooked, as wine.

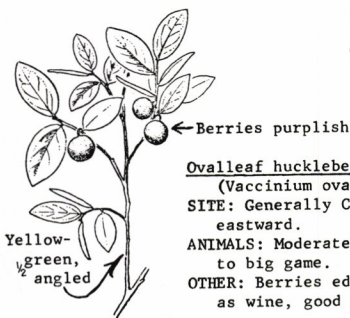


Alaska huckleberry

(*Vaccinium alaskaense*)

SITE: Mid to upper elevations;
cooler sites.

OTHER: Berries rather edible raw,
cooked, in wine; rather tart
taste.



Ovalleaf huckleberry

(*Vaccinium ovalifolium*)

SITE: Generally Cascades and
eastward.

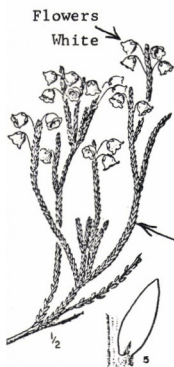
ANIMALS: Moderately palatable
to big game.

OTHER: Berries edible raw, cooked,
as wine, good flavor but dry.

Red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*)

ANIMALS: Patalable to big game.
GARDEN: Used as ornamental for
fall colored leaves on green
stems.

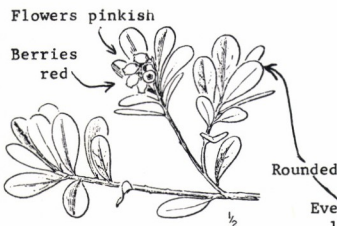
OTHER: Red berries rather sour
but edible raw, cooked, in
wine; good flavor.



White heather, Cassiope
 (Cassiope mertensiana)
 SITE: Timberline and higher;
 when growing with trees,
 indicates cold to very cold
 soil, severe regeneration
 problems, low productivity.
 GARDEN: Suitable for ground
 cover but seldom flowers.



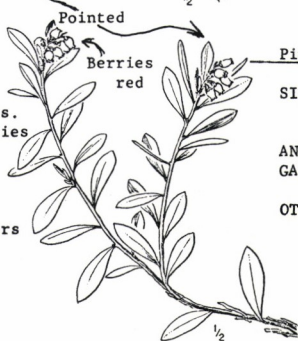
Pink heather or heath
 (Phyllodoce empetriflora)
 SITE: In and above timberline;
 in forest, indicates cold to
 very cold soil, severe regen-
 eration problems, low product.
 GARDEN: Difficult to grow even
 though the plant is most
 attractive.



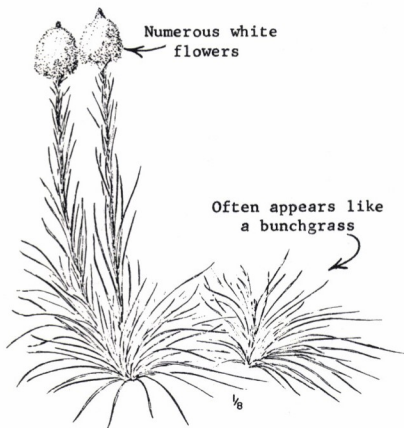
Kinnikinnic, Bearberry
 (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi)
 SITE: Generally drier sites, lower
 timber productivity.
 ANIMALS: Berries eaten by game birds.
 GARDEN: Good ground cover, red berries
 attractive.
 OTHER: Red berries eaten raw,
 cooked, made into wine; leaves
 smoked (indian tobacco), boiled
 for "coffee" for urinary disorders



Yellow heather
 (Phyllodoce glanduliflora)
 SITE: Serpentine indicator; in
 and above timberline; when
 tree are present (usually
 lodgepole pine, probably as
 climax), indicates extreme
 regeneration problems, very
 low (non-commercial) site.
 GARDEN: difficult to grow; not
 particularly attractive.



Pinemat manzanita
 (Arctostaphylos nevadensis)
 SITE: Generally mid and upper
 elevations, cooler climate;
 drier sites.
 ANIMALS: Berries eaten by game bird
 GARDEN: less desirable ground
 cover than A. uva-ursi.
 OTHER: Red berries eaten raw,
 cooked, as wine.



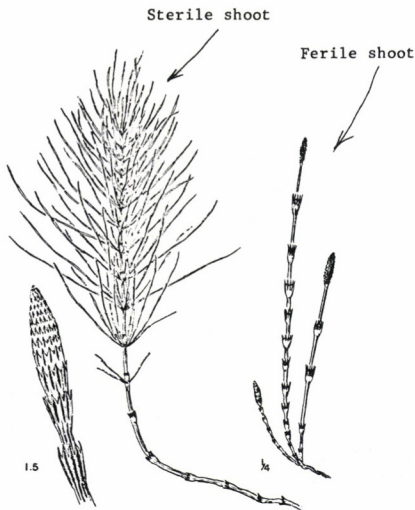
Beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)

SITE: Drier, poorer forest sites; indicates regeneration problems when dominant, rhizomatous from rootstocks, hard to control.

ANIMALS: Unpalatable to any known animals.

GARDEN: Can be easily propagated by pinning rhizomes but the leafy "bunch" dies back after flowering; does not flower every year.

OTHER: Rootstocks roasted or boiled,; leaves used for weaving and decoration.

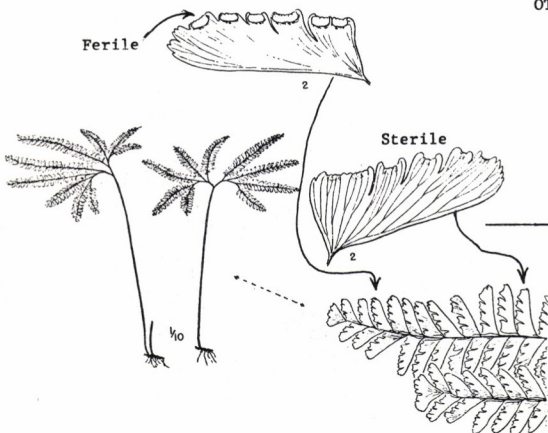


Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*)

SITE: Generally disturbed areas or moist to wet sites; indicates abundant spring soil moisture.

ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to big game; poisonous to horses.

OTHER: Sterile shoots with long leaves used to scour pots; peel outer tissue and eat sweet pulp raw; boil young heads like asparagus, cover with flour and fry.



Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)

SITE: Moist forest sites, average or better productivity.

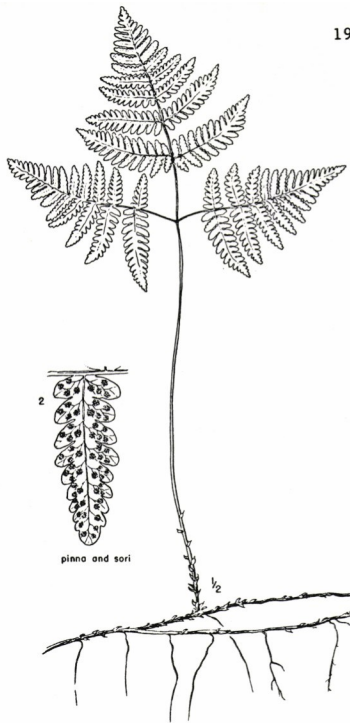
GARDEN: One of the choicest ferns, green leaves and purple to black stems.



Lady fern (*Athyrum filix-femina*)

SITE: Moist soil; good forest productivity.

GARDEN: Good summer garden fern but dead fronds detract during winter months.



Woodfern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
(*Dryopteris disjuncta*)

GARDEN: Easiest fern to transplant (by rhizomes) to the garden but dead fronds detract in winter.

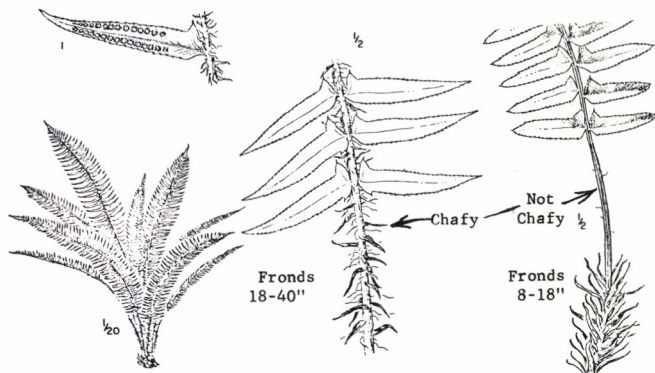


Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

SITE: Often drier sites but still fair to good forest productivity; recovers rapidly following fire, may increase at expense of other plants; when dominant, may smother tree seedlings with fronds; natural opens at upper elev.

ANIMALS: Moderately to low palatability for livestock - but poisonous, cumulative over several months.

OTHER: very young fiddleneck heads edible raw or cooked, old fronds poisonous.



Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)

Var. munitum

SITE: Good forest sites; moist, deep soil; moderate to no regeneration problems.

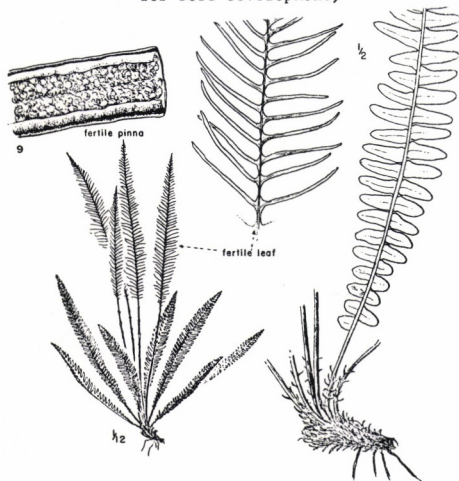
ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to big game.
GARDEN: Easy to grow; evergreen fronds desirable during winter months.

OTHER: Fronds harvested commercially for the florist trade (requires pruning for best development)

Var. imbricans

SITE: Poor forest sites, dry, shallow, gravelly soils; regeneration problems

ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to game.
GARDEN: Easy to grow, significantly shorter than v. munitum.



Deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*)

SITE: Moist soils; good forest productivity.

ANIMALS: Palatable to very palatable for livestock and big game.

GARDEN: Easily propagated in the garden.



Holly fern (*Polystichum mohrioides*)
 SITE: Serpentine indicator - nearly
 endemically limited to serpentine;
 from sea level to above timberline;
 poor forest sites.

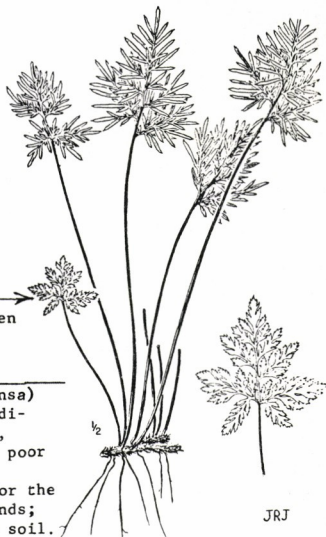
Fronds →
 evergreen

Rock brake

(*Cryptogramma densa*)

SITE: Serpentine indi-
 cator; poor soil,
 stony, droughty; poor
 forest site.

GARDEN: Desirable for the
 winter green fronds;
 needs dry, rocky soil.



JRJ



Selaginella (*Selaginella oregana*)

SITE: Rain forest plant; moist to wet
 environment; good to very good
 forest sites; found hanging on
 trees or sprawled on the ground.

GARDEN: Does poorly in the garden.

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Flowers
white

Fruit greenish-yellow

Solomonplume

(*Smilacina stellata*)

SITE: Moist forest and
 natural openings in
 the forest (to wet).

OTHER: Caution - causes
 loosening of the bowels
 (medicinal); berries
 edible raw, cooking
 reduces purgative and
 improves flavor.

Flowers
white to
greenish

Fruit red

False lily-of-the-valley

(*Maianthemum dilatatum*)

SITE: Moist forest.

ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to
 big game.

GARDEN: Easily propagated but
 becomes aggressive.

OTHER: Red berry may be poisonous

Twisted stalk (*Streptopus
 roseus*)

SITE: Good, deep soil; some
 sub-irrigation; good to
 very good productivity.

OTHER: Caution - medicinal,
 berries cause loosening
 of bowels (purgative);
 berries edible raw, cooked
 in soup or stew.

Flowers white

Berries red

1/2

Flower
yellow



Skunk cabbage

(*Lysichiton americanum*)

SITE: Wet, swampy areas, often in or near standing water.

GARDEN: Easily transplanted by propagation of the underground stem into or adjacent to water.

Flower white - deep pink - orange



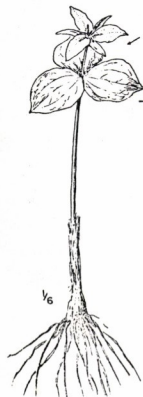
Spring beauty

(*Claytonia lanceolata*)

SITE: Moist, productive forest.

OTHER: Corms taste like potatoes when cooked; edible raw; excellent addition to stew.

Flower white to pinkish



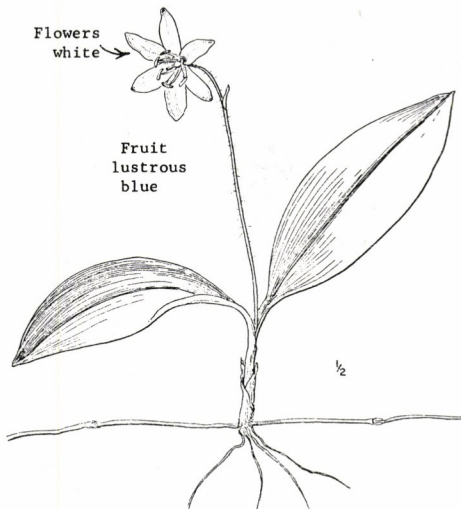
Trillium (*Trillium ovatum*)

SITE: Moist to wet forest and openings; good forest productivity.

GARDEN: Easily grown from seed - NOTE: plant is somewhat rare and picking should be discouraged.

Flowers
white

Fruit
lustrous
blue



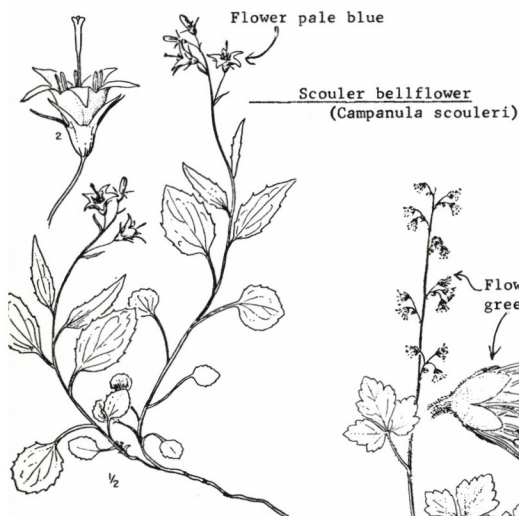
Clintonia (*Clintonia uniflora*)

SITE: Moist forest sites; good productivity.

GARDEN: Easily grown from the rhizome.

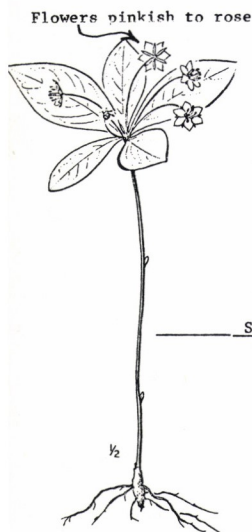
OTHER: Caution - berry may be poisonous.

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Flower pale blue

Scouler bellflower
 (*Campanula scouleri*)



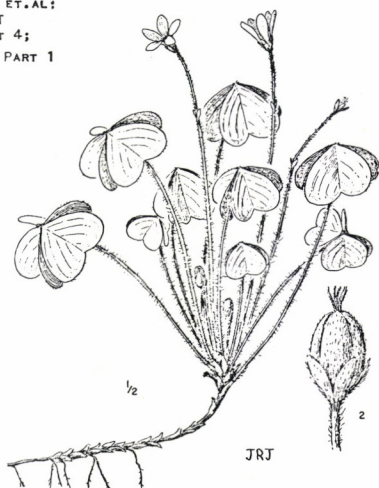
Flowers pinkish to rose

Coolwort, foamflower
 (*Tiarella trifoliata*)
 SITE: Moist sites.

Star flower
 (*Trientalis latifolia*)

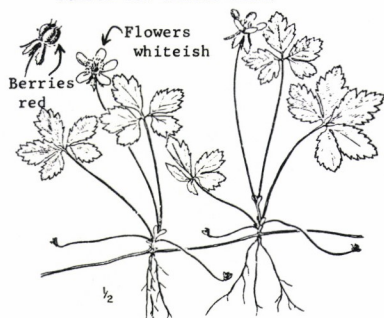


Flowers
 greenish



Oxalis (*Oxalis oregana*)

SITE: Moist forest of good productivity
 ANIMALS: Moderately palatable to big game.
 GARDEN: Strongly rhizomatous, aggressive, not recommended.
 OTHER: Leave edible but with sharp or sour taste; ferment leaves slightly for salad; original source for oxalic acid.



Flowers
 whiteish

Berries
 red

Strawberryleaf blackberry (*Rubus pedatus*)
 SITE: Moist forest sites, good production.
 ANIMALS: Moderate palatability to game.
 GARDEN: Easy to establish as ground cover.
 OTHER: Berries edible raw, cooked, as wine; leaves make nice tea.

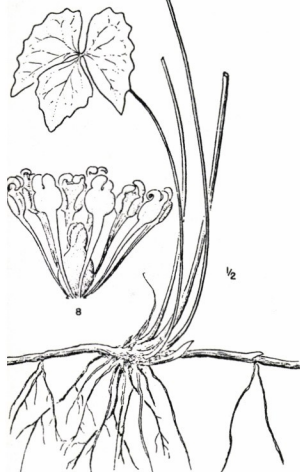
Green flower cluster

Vanilla leaf

Achlys triphylla)

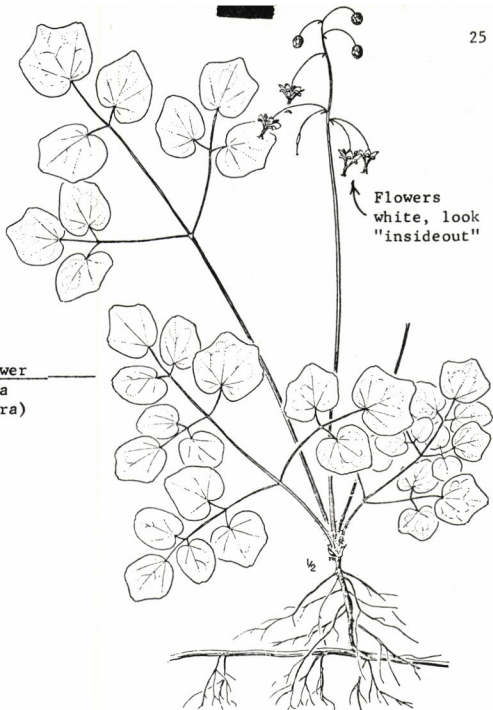
GARDEN: Good ground cover.

OTHER: Leaves have pleasant fragrance when dried.



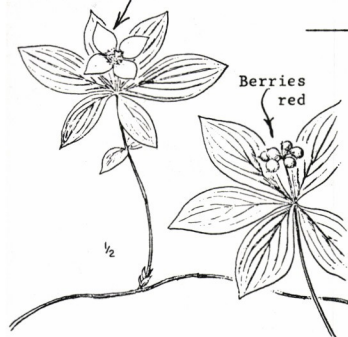
Insideout flower

(Vancouveria hexandra)



Flowers white, look "insideout"

"Flower" whitish



Berries red

Bunchberry dogwood

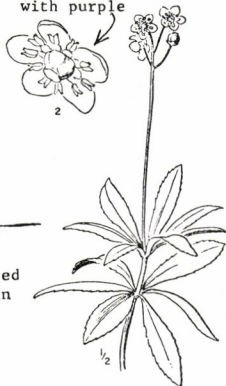
(Cornus canadensis)

SITE: generally cooler sites.

GARDEN: Desirable for ground cover for flowers and red fruit; transplant by small sod with rhizomes.

OTHER: Red berries very edible raw, cooked, as wine; boil roots for cold remedy.

Flowers pink tinged with purple



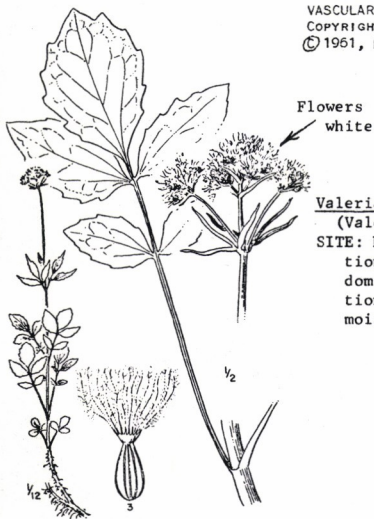
Prince's pine, pipsissewa

(Chimaphilla umbellata)

SITE: Drier, poorer sites.

OTHER: leaves may be nibbled raw; roots ingredient in rootbeer.

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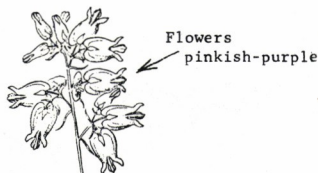


Flowers
white

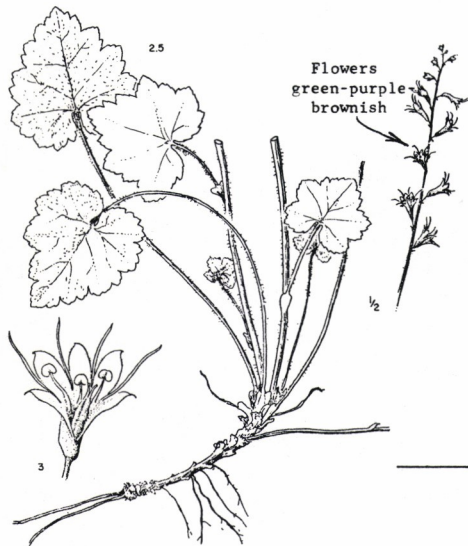
Valerian

(*Valeriana sitchensis*)

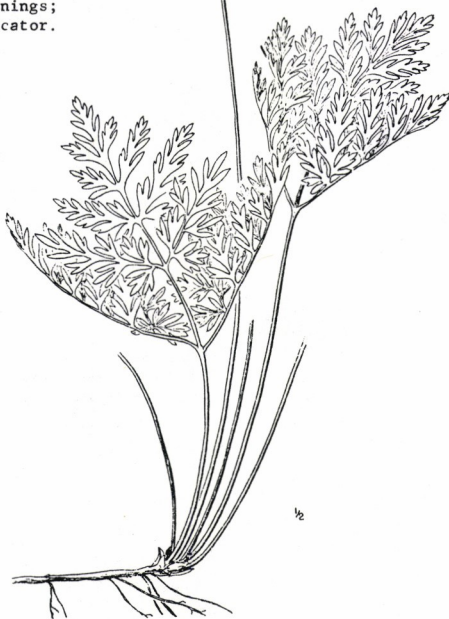
SITE: Mid and upper elevations; sometimes the dominant in upper elevation forest openings; moist site indicator.



Flowers
pinkish-purple



Flowers
green-purple-
brownish



Bleeding hart (*Dicentra formosa*)
 GARDEN: very common in the garden.
 OTHER: Poisonous to people (alkaloid)

Youth-on-age, tolmiea
 (*Tolmiea menziesii*)

SITE: Moist sites, lower elevations.

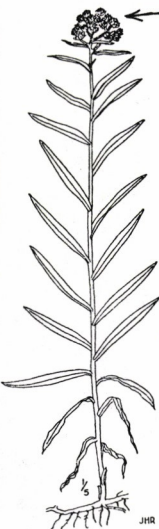
← Flowers whiteish

Pearly everlasting

(*Anaphalis margaritacea*)

SITE: common in clearcuts;
indicates disturbance;
rhizomatous.

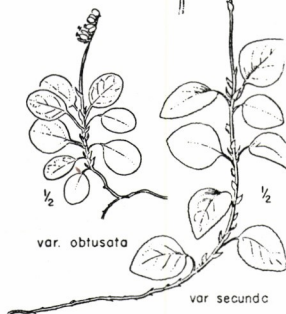
ANIMALS: Palatable to big
game



← Flowers greenish white

Pyrola (*Pyrola secunda*)

← Leaves shiny on top,
dull underneath.

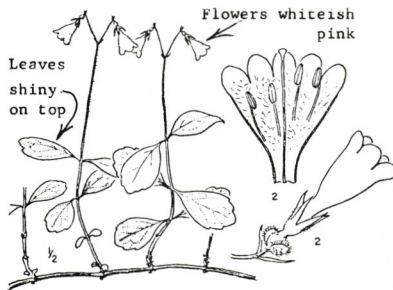


var. obtusata

var. secunda

← Flowers whiteish
pink

Leaves
shiny
on top



Twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*)

GARDEN: trailing; excellent
ground cover, easily intro-
duced into the garden.

← Flowers
greenish

1/2

Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)

SITE: Wet to moist sites, seeps.

OTHER: Young shoots boiled like spinach;
Mature plants beaten for fiber; yellow
dye by boiling roots.

← Stinging
hairs
JRS



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Flowers white-pink

Miner's lettuce
 (*Montia sibirica*)

SITE: Often in disturbed areas.

OTHER: Entire plant quite edible raw as in salad.

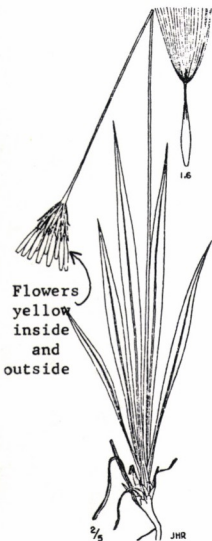


Cuter flowers (rays) white

Inner flowers (disk) yellow

Aster (*Aster paucicapitatus*)

SITE: Mid to upper elevations; often dominant on open slopes; most common in Olympic area.



Flowers yellow inside and outside

Agoseris

(*Agoseris glauca*)

SITE: More common in disturbed areas.

ANIMALS: Highly palatable to big game and livestock.

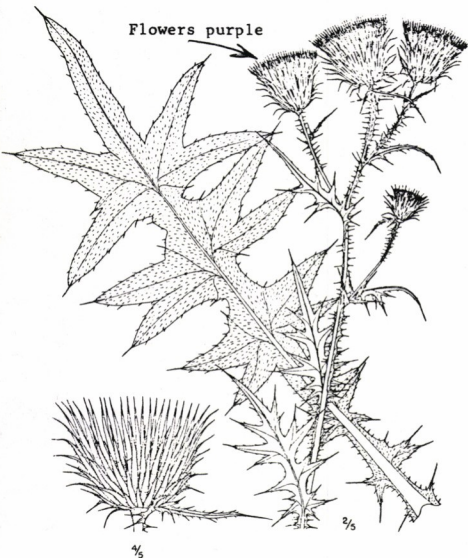


Flowers violet-purple

Saussurea (*Saussurea americana*)

SITE: Mid to high elevation; natural openings of moist to dryish sites; tallus slopes.

Flowers purple



Bull thistle
(*Cirsium vulgare*)

SITE: Commonly invades clearcuts and other kinds of disturbance. (Introduced)

ANIMALS: Flowers eaten by big game (same as artichoke).

OTHER: Roots edible raw, boiled, or roasted; peeled stems cooked as greens.



Woodland groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*)

SITE: Annual, common invader in clearcuts and other disturbed areas. (Introduced from Europe)

Flowers
rose to
purple

JRJ

Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)

SITE: Common invader in clearcuts and other disturbed areas.

ANIMALS: Palatable to big game and livestock.

OTHER: Excellent source of nectar for honey; Young shoots and leaves boiled like asparagus; young leaves as salad greens; dried leaves for tea; pith of stems in soup.

Broad-leaved Lupine
 (*Lupinus latifolius*)

Site: open subalpine ridges
 to wood slopes &
 natural openings

Animals: generally
 non-poisonous to
 livestock

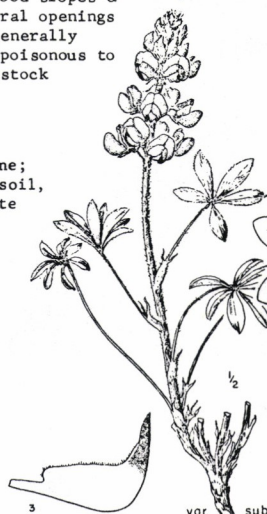
Flowers blue, also
 pinkish to white

Flowers whiteish



Wooly pussytoes
 (*Antennaria lanata*)

SITE: Alpine and sub-alpine;
 open areas or shallow soil,
 poor sites; may indicate
 poor range condition.



JRJ

Flowers yellow green

Falsehellebore
 (*Veratrum viride*)

SITE: upper elevations and
 sub-alpine natural open-
 ings; wet to swampy sites,
 sub-irrigated; good soil.

ANIMALS: Poisonous to livestock.

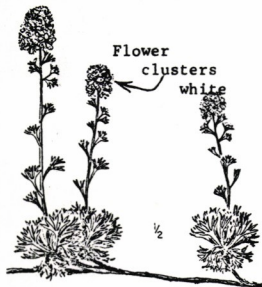
OTHER: Poisonous to people
 (alkaloid)



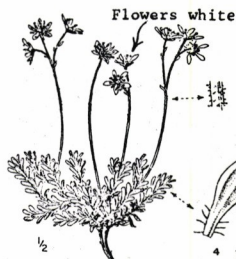
Phlox (*Phlox diffusa*)

SITE: Natural openings at mid to upper
 elevations, sub-alpine and alpine;
 dry, harsh sites; serpentine indicator.

Flowers blue fading
 to nearly white



Mat forming

Tolmie saxifrage

(Saxifraga tolmiei)

SITE: Sub-alpine to alpine; moist to wet locations; indicates late snow areas; often in tallus
GARDEN: Attractive but difficult to grow in the rock garden.



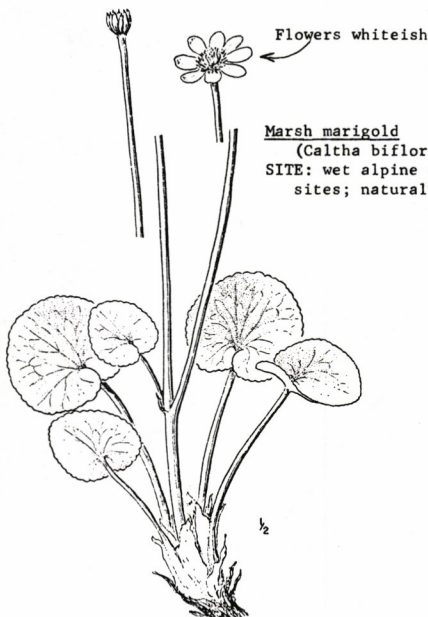
Leaves thick and fleshy

4 Mat forming

Lutkea (Lutkea pectinata)

SITE: Sub-alpine to alpine sites; often found between clumps or groves of mountain hemlock or sub-alpine fir - indicates late snowbank areas, cold soils, extreme regeneration problems.

GARDEN: Easily propagated by cuttings and divisions for the garden as a ground cover.

Marsh marigold

(Caltha biflora)

SITE: wet alpine and sub-alpine sites; natural forest openings.

Flowers pink-purple marked with yellow

Monkeyflower (Minulus lewisii)

SITE: Mid and upper elevations in natural openings; wet areas with sub-irrigation or along water.
GARDEN: Does poorly in the garden.
OTHER: Leaves edible as salad greens.

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Staminate
 flowers
 below pistillate

Dewey sedge (*Carex deweyana*)

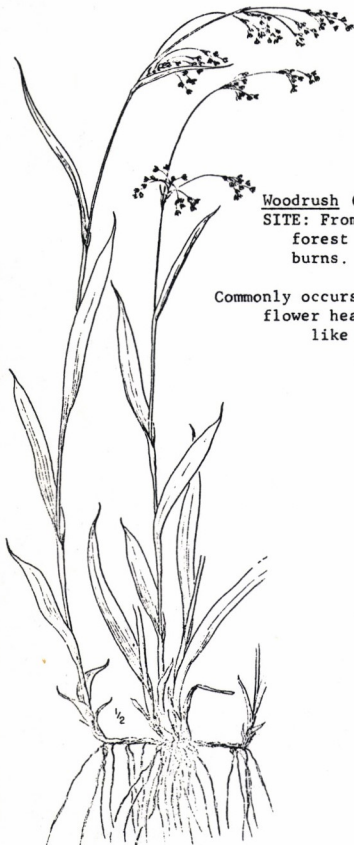
SITE: Moist forest sites and
 in forest openings.



Woodrush (*Luzula parviflora*)

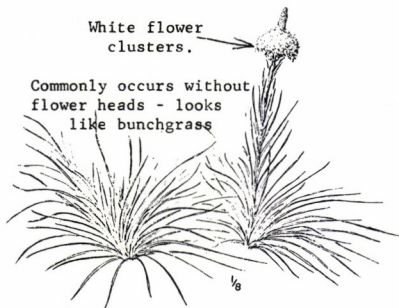
SITE: From moist to fairly dry
 forest sites; upper elevation
 burns.

Commonly occurs without
 flower heads - looks
 like a carpet of
 grass.



White flower
 clusters.

Commonly occurs without
 flower heads - looks
 like bunchgrass



Beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)

SITE: on drier, poorer forest sites;
 indicates regeneration problems
 when dominant.

GARDEN: Can be propagated by rootstocks
 but leaves die back after flowering -
 does not flower every year.

OTHER: Rootstocks boiled or roasted;
 leaves woven.

Terminal spike: staminate
flowers below pistillate.
Lower spikes all pistillate

Tall sedge

(*Carex obnupta*)

SITE: In water or very
wet ground, wet
meadows; often with
willow.

Merten's sedge (*Carex mertiensii*)

SITE: Forested areas or forest open-
ings.

Staminate
flowers
above
pistillate

Terminal
spike
staminate
lower
pistillate

Showy sedge

(*Carex spectabilis*)

SITE: Moist to wet sites
at mid to upper eleva-
tions and above timber-
line; meadows.

Nodding trisetum (*Trisetum cernuum*)

SITE: Moist woods and along lakes
and streambanks.

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Terminal
 spike
 staminate;
 lower
 pistillate

Woodrush sedge

(*Carex luzulina*)

SITE: Bogs, wet meadows.

Green fescue

(*Festuca viridula*)

SITE: Bunchgrass, sub-
 alpine and alpine; in
 forest openings; often
 tree "invasion" in
 stands.

ANIMALS: Highly palatable
 to all large herbivores,
 decreases under heavy
 utilization.

Staminate
 flowers
 above pistillate

Very short
 awns

Black sedge

(*Carex nigricans*)

SITE: Sub-alpine open-
 ings to alpine; moist
 to dry meadows; late
 snow fields

